

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A double shell tank ship comprising an outer skin, and an inner shell surrounding individual holds and spaced from the outer skin, wherein the outer skin and the inner shell are rigidly interconnected by substantially vertically and horizontally extending connecting elements, characterized in that at least some of the connecting elements (12, 13), and that at least some of the vertical inner wall members of frame and/or at least some of the horizontal stringers are provided with rated break points or perforations (20) that tear open upon the imposition of a force on the double shell tank ship that is less than a force that would deform the inner shell, whereby deformation of the inner shell is reduced or prevented, and the inner shell (11) is made of has been produced from a highly resilient steel having a comprising high breaking elongation high enough to enable the inner shell to deform without developing a break in most ship collisions.

2. (Currently amended) A double shell tank ship according to claim 1, characterized in that the rated break points perforations (20) are in at least some of in the vertically extending connecting elements (12), the members of frame, and the rated break points in the vertically extending connecting elements are configured close to the inner shell.

3. (Currently amended) A double shell tank ship according to claim 1, characterized in that the rated break points perforations (20) are in at least some of in the horizontally extending connecting elements (13), the stringers, and the rated break points in the horizontally extending connecting elements are configured close to the inner shell.

4. (Currently amended) A double shell tank ship according to claim 1, characterized in that the rated break points comprise perforations (20) ~~are formed by~~ rows of round holes.

5. (Currently amended) A double shell tank ship according to claim 2, characterized in that the rated break points ~~perforations (20)~~ are in at least some of ~~in~~ the horizontally extending connecting elements (13), ~~the stringers,~~ and the rated break points in the horizontally extending connecting elements are ~~configured~~ close to the inner shell.

6. (Currently amended) A double shell tank ship according to claim 2, characterized in that the rated break points comprise perforations (20) ~~are formed by~~ rows of round holes.

7. (Currently amended) A double shell tank ship according to claim 3, characterized in that the rated break points comprise perforations (20) ~~are formed by~~ rows of round holes.

8. (Currently amended) A double shell tank ship according to claim 5, characterized in that the rated break points comprise perforations (20) ~~are formed by~~ rows of round holes.

9. (New) A double shell tank ship according to claim 1, characterized in that the rated break points comprise perforations.

10. (New) A double shell tank ship according to claim 2, characterized in that the rated

break points comprise perforations.

11. (New) A double shell tank ship according to claim 3, characterized in that the rated break points comprise perforations.

12. (New) A double shell tank ship according to claim 5, characterized in that the rated break points comprise perforations.